REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-34, and 36-62 are pending in the Application. Claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-12, 14-23, 25, 31-34, 36-37, 39-42, 44-53, 55, and 61-62 currently stand rejected, and claims 5 and 35 have been previously cancelled. Claims 24, 28, 54, and 59 have been indicated as being allowed. Claims 8, 13, 26-28, 30, 38, 43, 56-58, and 60 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 8, 13, 26, 30, 38, 43, 56, and 60 are amended, and claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-12, 14-23, 25, 31-34, 36-37, 39-42, 44-53, 55, and 61-62 are cancelled herein. Reconsideration of the Application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Cancellation Of Rejected Claims

In the Office Action of September 27, 2004, the Examiner has indicated that claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-12, 14-23, 25, 31-34, 36-37, 39-42, 44-53, 55, and 61-62 remain rejected. Because of the Applicants' wish to expedite the allowance and issuance of the present Application, Applicants therefore refrain from further discussing the cited references, and instead, herein cancel currently rejected claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-12, 14-23, 25, 31-34, 36-37, 39-42, 44-53, 55, and 61-62 without prejudice, and amend the remaining allowable claims to thereby place the Application in condition for immediate allowance.

The Applicants expressly state that the rejected claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-12, 14-

23, 25, 31-34, 36-37, 39-42, 44-53, 55, and 61-62 are not cancelled herein for reasons of patentability. The rejected claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-12, 14-23, 25, 31-34, 36-37, 39-42, 44-53, 55, and 61-62 are cancelled solely to expedite the allowance and issuance of the Application. Furthermore, the Applicants also reserve the right to seek allowance of any additional claims in Applications that may claim priority in the present Application.

Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraph 34, the Examiner indicates that claims 8, 13, 26-28, 30, 38, 43, 56-58, and 60 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants therefore herein amend claims 8, 13, 26, 30, 38, 43, 56, and 60 in independent form to incorporate the limitations of the corresponding base claim and any intervening claims, to thereby place claims 8, 13, 26-28, 30, 38, 43, 56-58, and 60 in condition for immediate allowance.

Summary

Applicants submit that the foregoing amendments and remarks overcome the Examiner's objections and rejections. Because the cited references, or the Examiner's citations thereto, do not teach or suggest the claimed invention, and in light of the differences between the claimed invention and the cited prior art, Applicants therefore submit that the claimed invention is patentable over the cited art, and respectfully request the Examiner to allow claims 8, 13, 24, 26-30, 38, 43, 54, 56-60, so that the present Application may issue in a timely manner. If there are any questions concerning this amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: ///3/04
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